

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
CENTER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Raymond F. Bender

Age: 58

Occupation: Senior Financial Representative

Education and Qualifications: The students of Center Unified School District (CUSD) need to be prepared to get into the world and become productive members of society. As the only college graduate on the current board I know the value of higher education, but this isn't for everyone. All our students need to leave Center with the necessary tools to pursue a vocation. This goal may be college, a trade school/apprenticeship, or some type of school-to-work program. In my lifetime I've learned it's more important to enjoy my job, not just my paycheck.

Earning an income is not the only skill students should take with them at graduation. These young people also need to learn the values that will help them to successfully function in this vastly diverse and technical world.

I'm finishing my 17th year as your elected Trustee. During this time CUSD has gone through many changes. We've experienced times of prosperity as well as those of need. The prosperity usually corresponds to growth in the district and we're about to experience the greatest growth CUSD will ever see. I think my extensive experience could help CUSD for the next 4 years

May we all be life-long learners.